

TO: Board of County Commissioners and Library Board of Trustees
FROM: Arnie Maurins, Director
RE: Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding the Washoe County Library System's FY 2015/16 Budget Requests
DATE: February 24, 2015

Background: The information below regarding the Library's financial situation and current safety concerns provides some context for the FY 2015/16 budget requests that are outlined in this report.

- The Library's total budget at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2007-08 was approximately \$14.9 million (\$13.1M General Fund, \$1.8M Expansion Fund). The Library's current budget is \$9.8 million (\$7.9M General Fund, \$1.9M Expansion Fund). The net decrease is just over \$5M, or approximately 34%. (Debt service is not included in the figures.)
- The Library has lost 93 positions to attrition, going from 224 to 131 employees.
- Prior to FY 2007-08, the five largest libraries—Northwest Reno, Spanish Springs, Sparks, Downtown Reno and Sierra View—were open seven days a week, and the next three largest branches—South Valleys, Incline Village, and North Valleys—were open six days a week. The Senior Center Library was open five days a week. Currently, the eight largest branches are all open five days a week, and Senior Center is open four days.
- In actual dollars, the line item for new materials (books, media, digital and online resources) is nearly 48% less than it was in FY 2007-08. Factoring in price increases, the materials line item has less than half the buying power it had seven years ago.
- The Expansion Fund's current budget includes \$982,000 for personnel, \$615,000 for library materials, \$300,000 in other services & supplies, and \$217,095 for debt service (Incline Village Library). Debt service is scheduled to be retired in in FY 2018-19. All of the other expenditures must be moved out of the Expansion Fund by 2025, when the revenue stream stops. In addition, the Fund balance needs to grow so that it can be used for expansion-related projects as described in the 1994 ballot measure authorizing the creation of the Fund.
- The top capital-project priority identified in the Library's Facility Master Plan is the construction of a new North Valleys library, to replace the current leased facility
- The Sparks and Sierra View libraries are documenting increasing numbers of disruptive incidents that take up staff time, interfere with the use and enjoyment of those libraries by other patrons, and create an overall less safe environment.

With the above facts in mind, the primary objectives for the Library's budget requests are:

- Improving services via increased access, targeted technologies, and expanded collections
- Increasing both customer satisfaction and perceived safety among patrons and staff
- Reducing expenditures in the Expansion Fund

The Library's FY 2015/16 budget requests include the following items, in priority order:

Item Requested with Supported County Goal(s)	Library Above-Base	Facilities/Parks Above-Base	Exp Fund Reduction	Net Spending Increase
Open Sparks, NW Reno, South Valleys, and Senior Center libraries on Mondays (See Note 1 below) <u>County Goals Supported:</u> Be responsive and proactive to pending economic impacts; Keep senior services on pace with rising population	\$727,000	\$56,500 (Note 2)		\$781,000
Security Guard – Sparks and Sierra View Libraries <u>County Goal Supported:</u> Enhance community safety		\$64,400		\$64,400
Shift Librarian III from Expansion to General Fund <u>County Goal Supported:</u> Be responsive and proactive to pending economic impacts	\$106,500		\$106,500	\$0
Increased funding for public-use technology (Note 3) <u>County Goal Supported:</u> Be responsive and proactive to pending economic impacts	\$75,000		\$40,270	\$34,730
More funding for books & other materials (Note 4) <u>County Goal Supported:</u> Be responsive and proactive to pending economic impacts	\$100,000		\$50,000	\$50,000
TOTALS:	\$1,008,500	\$120,900	\$196,770	\$930,130
CIP Request: Increase funding for a new North Valleys library from the current \$5.39 M to \$10.4 M <u>County Goal Supported:</u> Be responsive and proactive to pending economic impacts				5,012,000

NOTES

1. Per Facility Master Plan (FMP) recommendation. FMP also recommends closing the public libraries at Verdi and Duncan-Traner. Taking this action would enable 75 additional weekly staff hours to be allocated to the 6-day libraries or to the Senior Center Library, and/or to help expand services at other libraries.
2. Unverified estimate based on prior-year operating costs. Library is working with Facilities to obtain a more substantiated figure.
3. Above-the-base funds would be spent on an additional laptop lab, smart whiteboards for meeting rooms, and public-computing infrastructure improvements.
4. Above-the-base funds would be spent on downloadable books, print fiction and Blu-Ray movies.

Recommendation: Provide whatever feedback and/or direction to staff you feel is appropriate regarding the Library's pending budget requests.